

Village of Los Lunas



660 Main Street NW P .O. Box 1209
Los Lunas New Mexico 87031
Phone (505) 865-9689 F AX (505) 865-6063

Volume 5 Number 3

August - September 2001

Water Master Plan

Master plans are integral to the business of running the Village of Los Lunas. The plans are constantly updated to reflect the changing makeup of the village and its residents. One of the master plans is the Water Plan which is structured to help provide safety as well

Aids Fire Protection, Infrastructure

as quality of life.

Water supplied to the village is produced from ground water wells that pump to ground storage tanks. The ground storage tanks are located so that the water is supplied by gravity.

Los Lunas currently produces

approximately 1,200 acre-feet per year of ground water from wells that are completely in the upper Santa Fe aquifer.

The system includes three water supply wells, three water storage tanks, one transfer pump station which houses three transfer pumps, and a distribution pipe network ranging in size from six inches to twenty inches. The system also includes fire hydrants for fire protection.

The system's components range in age from thirty years old to less than ten years.

One of the goals in the Water Master Plan is to loop the water system. This goal has nearly been attained as the village puts the finishing touches on the loop within a year. Looped systems provide adequate water pressures to a point

Continued on Page 3

Budget Brings Associated Projects

The Village is now operating under the 2001-2002 fiscal budget. A variety of community development projects associated with the budget will be accomplished this year:

- Economic Development. Village officials want to continue efforts to attract new businesses. The addition of new retail trades continues to provide significant new employment opportunities. An economic development specialist will assist in attracting both industrial development and retail trade in the village.

- Reviewing and updating various village fees. With the completion and adoption of the updated Comprehensive Master Plan for the village, efforts will be focused on reviewing and updating various village fees such as impact and permit fees. In conjunction with this, the Village Council has adopted an updated Zoning Ordinance.

The Village of Los Lunas is a service-oriented organization and a significant portion of the budgeted expenditures is personnel services. In the current fiscal year, the Village plans to:

- Emphasize employee training;
- Improve its award-winning

Total Quality Management (TQM) system through Quality New Mexico;

- Emphasize the Village Safety Program which continually lowers the Workers Compensation modifier;
- Continue the implementation of Operational Goals and Objectives.

Village Administrator Phillip Jaramillo said that sound fiscal and comprehensive planning will enable the Village of Los Lunas to enter the next year in a strong fiscal position.



Transportation Now Available

Have you seen a van like this traveling Valencia County? It's part of a transportation program sponsored by the Village of Los Lunas. Read about it on Page 2.

Village Transportation System Provides County Service

Have you noticed the white multi-passenger vans driving around the village and even outside the village? They are part of a transportation system sponsored by the Village of Los Lunas which now provides services throughout Valencia County.

The transportation program began two years ago and now has five vans which run regular routes as well as answering On Demand calls. On Demand transportation is provided with a 24-hour advance call to the transportation program which can be reached at 866-8047.

The program started on a small scale with service within the village limits. As the number of vans increased and the service area grew, Transportation Program Manager Pearl Lucero was hired.

Now vans take riders to the University of New Mexico Valencia Campus, to medical appointments across the Valley (including dialysis in Belen) and to jobs.

Clients in the Welfare to Work program use the vans, explained Shereen Snare, Community Services director. Community Services is the village department which oversees the transportation program.

Welfare to Work clients who receive referrals from the Su Parte program can use the vans for many things which keep the clients employed at their jobs.

The Village of Los Lunas sponsors this program but anyone can use the vans for their transportation. The village budget supports the program with matching funds as required to maintain the program.

Van passengers pay a nominal charge which ranges from 50 cents to \$1.50 each way for the trip depending upon the distance traveled.

Snare and Lucero are working

on expanding the program so that passengers can be taken across county boundaries. This could help the traffic congestion which occurs with the morning and afternoon commutes throughout Valencia County.

The office for the transportation program is located at the Wellness Center which is on Lambros Loop just off Highway 47 on the east side of the village. Phone number is 866-8047. Call for information about routes and whatever else you want to know about this village-sponsored county wide program.



These logos, which are quite colorful on the vans, show the transportation program is sponsored by the Village of Los Lunas.

Village Posts Notice on Public Records

The Village has joined communities and governmental agencies across the state in notifying citizens of their right to inspect public records in those facilities.

The New Mexico Legislature passed a new law which became effective recently which requires these bodies to post a notice informing New Mexicans of those rights.

The new law is an amendment to the Inspection of Public Records Act. It requires every public entity, including police departments, county and municipal offices, school districts, and district attorneys to post a notice that those entities have a responsibility to make public records available for inspection.

"The Village continues to work with its citizens in maintaining open records when such is legally possible," said Mayor Louis F. Huning.

RECYCLE
Your Newspapers,
Cardboard, Aluminum Cans,
Magazines, Plastics
TODAY

"The village staff is trained to help people obtain the information they want and need."

Attend a Village Council Meeting!

The Los Lunas Village Council meets twice monthly at the village administrative building on Don Pasqual and Main Street. Meeting times and dates are subject to change. Please call Debra at 865-9689 to verify. Scheduled meetings for the remainder of 2001 are:

September 13 & 27

October 11 & 25

November 8 & 29

December 13 & 27

Village Officials

Louis F. Huning **Mayor**
Councilors

Cecilia CC Castillo Charles Griego
Gerard Saiz Robert Vialpando

Municipal Judge

Richard Luna

Village Administrator

Phillip Jaramillo

Master Municipal Clerk
Chief of Police Nick Balido

Water Master Plan Aids . . . Continued from Page 1

from at least two directions.

With the growth of the village (the 2000 Census says the population is 10,034 compared to 1990's 6,135), changes must be made to the water system to ensure adequate water services as well as fire protection. These changes are covered in the Master Plan.

For instance, the plan recommends the addition of a new well and water tank in 2001 to adequately provide proper service to citizens of Los Lunas. Work is progressing on both the well and tank.

Addition of the well and tank will improve fire protection in the village by increasing residential and commercial fire flows. The well and tank will also help provide service to people who are on the current system or who want to be on the system.

The new well and 1.5 million gallon tank will be on the north end of Luna Hill, south of Highway 6, in the vicinity of the current tank. It is anticipated construction will start by next summer on both.

As village officials were preparing to create the Water Master Plan, a Water Conservation Plan was instituted in the community. The conservation plan has continued and now includes a water-wise landscaping program which hires youth between the ages of 14 and 25 from the community.

Village Utility Director Betty Behrend points out that the village works on the water system so diligently to avoid what happened in the City of Rio Rancho in early August. Two of five wells that serve the area were out of operation while two storage tanks serving the area that was eventually affected had low levels of water in the tanks.

One of the resulting problems was very low, or non-existent water pressure. Citizens of the affected Rio Rancho area were asked to conserve for the several

days it took to solve the problem.

"The looped water system and the continual upgrading of the facilities will hopefully prevent the village from experiencing drastic problems," said Behrend.

Village Salutes Employees Who Make the Village Work!

Village employees are highlighted every week in the local newspaper with information about their jobs and background. The series will include all 122 people who work for the municipality from laborers to police to department managers. Here's a sample advertisement.

MEET THE PEOPLE WHO WORK AT THE VILLAGE OF LOS LUNAS



Betty Behrend, left, has served as the village's utility director for nine years. She began working for the village in 1983 as a lab tech at the wastewater treatment plant. She has a Master's of Science degree in biology from the University of New Mexico. Her current job includes overseeing the wastewater treatment plant, streets and solid waste. **Adrian Moya** oversees the wastewater treatment plant and sludge facility as the wastewater supervisor. He has worked for the village for eight years, starting as a lab tech. He has earned Wastewater V and Water III certificates from the New Mexico Environment Department.

PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT LOS LUNAS

**Village of
Los Lunas**

Don Pasqual & Main Street

865-9689 FAX 865-6063



Council Examines Utility Rates

The Los Lunas Village Council is currently looking at the ordinances which govern water and sewer rates and examining proposed changes.

Among the changes are an increase in the deposits for water service which have not increased in many years.

Officials are still waiting for decisions on proposed changes in allowable arsenic levels. What occurs with the allowable arsenic levels could impact on water fees in the village.

Road Work Continues

Several road and related projects are currently ongoing or will be soon in the Village.

Thanks to funding from MAP (Municipal Arterial Program) work will start this fall on rehabilitating Los Lentes Road from Taylor Road to just north of the drain crossing by Olympic Circle. MAP funding will be \$547,452 while the village will put in \$182,484. A large portion of this project will be replacing the drain crossing for \$104,000 which includes replacing the culvert for the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District drain and putting in the new culvert.

The village will receive \$98,000 in cooperative money from the State Highway and Transportation Department. The village will match this with \$52,000. Roads where this money will be used are Calle Don Marcos, Blaylock Road, Colonial Avenue, Juan de Jesus and Camelot Boulevard.

The downtown sewer project is a related project on which the village is still putting together the details. Because of the conditions of the sewer lines, rehabilitation of those lines will be almost impossible. The Village is examining how to proceed next so that the public will

Village Gives Special Award

At a recent village council meeting, Utilities Director Betty Behrend gave a special award to James Kircher of Yukon and Associates.

Yukon and Associates performs electrical and telecommunications work for the village and many other clients. James Kircher is on call night and day to answer the village's needs especially when an emergency occurs. Behrend pointed out that although his job is to respond to the village's needs, he has gone above and behind that duty to handle problems.

Behrend said that on Father's Day the village experienced problems with Well #5. Kircher drove down from Albuquerque and had the well running in a very short time so residents would not have any discomfort.

Kircher works a lot with the village's telemetry which keeps the water system on track.

experience the least amount of inconvenience

The Village Council recently increased the downtown sewer project from \$1.2 million to \$2.6 million due to the increase in cost and because the project scope changed to include storm drainage improvements and additional sanitary sewer improvements.

VOTE

***Register to
Vote Now!***

VOTE

Municipal Elections Tuesday, March 5, 2002
*Call the Valencia County Bureau of Elections
for voter registration information — 866-2080
or Visit their office in the Valencia County
Courthouse on Luna Avenue in Los Lunas*

**Village Voters Vote for
Mayor, Municipal Judge
and Village Council**

(this last depends on districting)

VOTE

VOTE